

Communications

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Reciprocal Communications Rights to Selected Foreign Governments

1. Recently there was organized under the aegis of the Assistant Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization for Telecommunications, an ad hoc committee to study ways and means of enabling the State Department to assure itself of the minimum essential facilities for reliable exchange of telegraphic communications with and among U. S. Foreign Service posts abroad. Numerous instances of civil strife in foreign countries, which usually result in disruption of communication channels, such as that recently experienced in Buenos Aires, make such facilities mandatory. The availability of facilities which can assure an uninterrupted flow of communications, particularly in times of emergency, is of grave concern of the Department of State and obviously of equal concern to this Agency.

2. The ad hoc committee, comprised of representatives from ODM, OSD, FCC, FBI, CIA and State, considered various aspects of the problem and concluded that a staff paper setting forth all relevant detail should be prepared. A small working group from CIA and State have prepared such a paper which is attached. This study will be presented to the Bureau of the Budget as the basis for White House approval of a plan to include in the Administration's legislative program, modification of the Communications Act of 1934 to permit the granting of reciprocal radio communication rights to selected foreign governments when deemed to be in the best interest of the United States.

3. Prior to formal presentation to the Bureau of the Budget, the Assistant Director for Telecommunications, ODM, has asked that the staff study be circulated informally to the agencies concerned and concurrence obtained. It is then intended to transmit the staff study formally, under cover of a letter from the Department of State, to the Agencies of interest with a request for formal concurrence. It is my

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understanding that the Department of Defense, and the FCC have agreed not to interpose any objections to the foregoing action. A previous staff study prepared within the Agency recommending the granting of reciprocal communications rights to selected nations was concurred in by the DD/I, DD/P and the Legal Counsel.

4. Since it is impossible to anticipate when disruptions may occur in the provision of vital communications services abroad, resolution of this problem appears to warrant early action by all concerned. Unless advised to the contrary, I intend to concur informally in the attached paper, and I recommend your formal concurrence when it is presented to you in the near future.

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Director of Communications

Attachment
Staff Study

cc: DD/P

DD/S

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Attachments